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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at least one packet; [[and]]

~~disposing of the received at least one packet in response to a walk of~~ <u>accessing</u> a

Hash Table<u>, based upon information included in the at least one packet,</u>

wherein

the Hash Table is balanced,

the Hash Table ~~is configured to~~ store<u>s</u> Binary Comparison Trees, and

the Hash Table ~~is configured to~~ encode<u>s</u> an Access Control List<u>; and</u>

<u>disposing of the at least one packet, based upon the Access Control list encoded in</u>

<u>the Hash Table.</u>

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said disposing of the received at least one packet ~~in response to a walk of the Hash Table~~ further includes:

constructing a hash table index value from one or more bit positions, within the

received at least one packet, pointed at by one or more pointers of a Hash-

Table-Balancing Bit Selection Vector; and

walking a binary comparison tree<u>, stored within the Hash Table,</u> associated with

the constructed hash table index value.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

converting the Access Control List to the Hash Table.